

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously cancelled).

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated-choline monooxygenase gene encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (c) or (d):

(c) ~~a~~ DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5;

(d) ~~a DNA which hybridizes to a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5 under stringent conditions, which has 90% 97% homology with the~~ nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or 5, and which encodes a protein having choline monooxygenase activity.

4. (Currently amended) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 2.

5. (original) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 4.

6. (original) A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim 5 and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

Claim 7 (previously cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated gene encoding a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (g) or (h):

(g) ~~a~~ DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16;

(h) a DNA which hybridizes to a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in complement SEQ ID NO: 16 under stringent conditions, which has 90% 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:16 and which encodes a protein having signal peptide activity.

10. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 8 or 9 and a gene of interest.

11. (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the isolated gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

12. (original) The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite confers stress resistance.

13. (original) The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

14. (Currently Amended) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to ~~anyone of claims 10 to 13~~ claim 10.

15. (original) The transformant according to claim 14, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

16. (original) An environmental stress-resistant plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 12 or 13 under environmental stress conditions.

17. (original) The plant according to claim 16, wherein the environmental stress is salt stress.

Claims 18-22 (previously cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 3.

24. (previously added) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 24.

25. (previously added) A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim 24 and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

26. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 9 and a gene of interest.

27. (previously added) The recombinant vector according to claim 26, wherein the gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

28. (previously added) The recombinant vector according to claim 26, wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite confers stress resistance.

29. (previously added) The recombinant vector according to claim 26, wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

30. (previously added) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 26.

31. (previously added) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 27.

32. (previously added) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 28.

33. (previously added) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 29.

34. (previously added) The transformant according to claim 30, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

35. (previously added) The transformant according to claim 31, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

36. (previously added) The transformant according to claim 32, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

37. (previously added) The transformant according to claim 33, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

38. (previously added) The transformant according to claim 34, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

39. (previously added) An environmental stress-resistant plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 13 under environmental stress conditions.

40. (previously added) The plant according to claim 39, wherein the environmental stress is salt stress.

41. (Currently Amended) The isolated gene according to claim 3, which is (c).

42. (Currently Amended) The isolated gene according to claim 3, which is (d).

43. (Currently Amended) The isolated gene according to claim 9, which is (g).

44. (Currently Amended) The isolated gene according to claim 9, which is (h).